

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagasaki EP 0145378 ("Nagasaki"). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaki. Nagasaki does not describe a coated optical fiber where the layer is cured by exposure to less than about 125 kV of electron beam radiation. Nagasaki also does not suggest less than about 125 kV of electron beam radiation to cure a layer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 6, 8-10 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kansai JP 59-45944 ("Kansai"). Kansai does not describe a method of curing a layer by exposure to a low power electron beam having energy less than about 125 kV coating to form a radiation-cured layer which is an inner primary coating, an ink layer or an outer primary layer. See independent claim 6. Kansai also does not describe curing with about 125 kV or less of electron beam radiation in a single pass. See independent claim 17. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

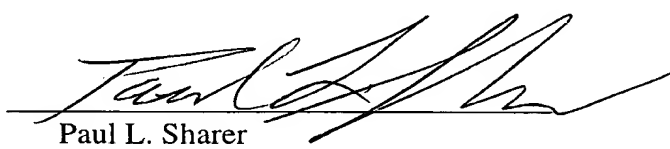
Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,837,750 to Szum *et al.* ("Szum"). Szum does not describe an optical fiber including a cured matrix material cured by a low power electron beam having energy less than about 125 kV. See independent claim 5. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Since all objections and rejections have been overcome, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is courteously solicited. If any questions remain, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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